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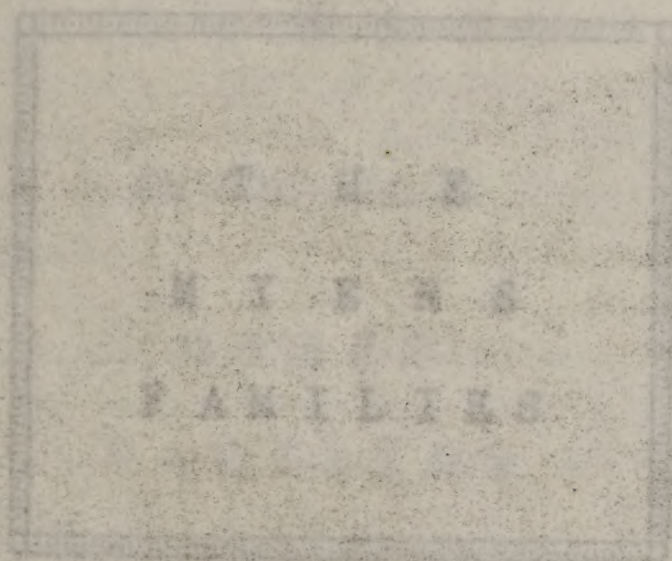
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On The H E

M Y E R S

F A M I L I E S

John A. Shields

1958

N O T E S

On The Early

M Y E R S
F A M I L I E S

John A. Shields
1958

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Mr. C. Benj. Franklin,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Cousin:

2233412

On the following pages are some notes about the early Myers families.

Apparently our nearest common ancestors are Henry and Mary Myers, who died about 1827. They had seven children. One of these, Sarah, married Jack Crane, through whom your line of descent runs; another, Hannah, married Hiram Bennett, my great-grandfather.

I have not followed, in detail, the descendants of any of the seven Myers children, except Hannah; doubtless you know the status of your connection with the Jack Cranes. My connection with the Myers family is as follows:

My grandfather, George Washington Bennett, was a son of Hiram and Hannah (Myers) Bennett. My mother, Mary (Bennett) Shields, was a daughter of George Washington Bennett.

I have not attempted to make a complete, or even a connected story of the material on the following pages; it is merely "notes" on information I have picked up here and there, and from time to time, concerning the early Myers families from whom we are both descended.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. SHIELDS.

Seymour, Indiana,
June, 1958.

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I have been thinking of you very much
and hope you are well.

With love,
John A. Smith

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and hope you are well.

With love,
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THE MYERS IMMIGRANTS

William Myers (the great-grandfather of George W. Bennett) was one of four brothers, the other three being Jacob, John, and Henry. They were natives of Hesse, a German state.

Jacob, the oldest of the four, was a young Hessian soldier, attached to the British army in the Revolutionary War. The Hessians were an "unhappy lot" of so called mercenaries. Personally, they had no interest whatever in the American war. Through a political deal, the British Government employed a contingent of the conscript army of Hesse. The Hessian soldiers were forced into military service in the first place, and in the second place most of them personally favored the Americans whom they had been hired to fight. They were despised by the British regulars because they were German hirelings, and hated by the Americans for the same reason. Consequently, they were undependable soldiers, more prone to retreat or surrender than to fight. Many of them deserted or were captured. Jacob Myers was one of the many who thus "escaped". He thereupon threw his talent and influence to the American cause, and was of great assistance to General George Washington.

Following the War, in recognition of his services, Jacob Myers obtained extensive grants of land in Kentucky, which was then part of Virginia. Kentucky was then "Indian country", with no white settlers outside of a few small forts. At that time it had only three counties, and Jacob Myers secured land in all of them.

Jacob induced his brothers, William, John, and Henry, and their mother, to come to America; the mother died en route. The three brothers

His mother died in 1860. His three brothers and Henry, and their mother, he came to America; James followed his brothers, William, John,

settled in Mason County, Ky., but the records do not indicate whether or not Jacob ever lived there.

On August 9, 1793 (Deed Book A, page 44) "Jacob Myers of Lincoln County, Kentucky, gives Power of Attorney to Michael Cassidy of Mason County to make deed to George Hiligoa of Mason County for 100 acres of land on waters of Fleming Creek," (then in Mason, now in Fleming County.) This document is witnessed, among others (page 129) by Joel Bennett, a son of Hyrum Bennett. On August 27, 1793 (Deed Book A, page 276) "Jacob Myers of Lincoln County gives Power of Attorney to Michael Cassidy of Mason County to make deed to Thomas Treacle of Mason County 300 acres of land on waters of Fleming Creek --- being the remainder of a tract obtained by a Treasury Warrant ..." On October 2, 1795 (Deed Book C, page 193) "Jacob Myers of Mercer County, State of Kentucky land in Mason County opposite the mouth of State Creek 2000 acres to Caudwallader Slaughter of Jefferson County, Kentucky." On February 9, 1798 (Deed Book B, page 201) "Jacob Myers of Mercer County, Kentucky, gives Power of Attorney to Michael Cassidy of Mason County to make deed to John Heasler, Henry Smith, John Burke, and James Greer for 400 acres of land known as Peter's Settlement."

The above land records indicate that Jacob Myers lived in various sections of central Kentucky prior to 1800. The History of Jessamine County, Kentucky (page 220) records that at about that time he permanently settled "on the west side of Hickman road on Jessamine Creek" where he built a factory and "engaged in the manufacture of gunpowder."

John Myers, one of the four immigrant brothers, appears in one of the earliest land records

of Mason County (Deed Book B-1, page 12) under the entry: "May 19, 1792, Isaac Prust of Bourbon County, Kentucky, to John Myers of Mason County land in Mason County on the waters of Main Licking 100 acres."

Names of children of these four immigrant Myers brothers occur in various Marriage and Land Records -- so numerous that it is impossible to determine all of their family connections. David Myers, who founded the town of Circleville, Kans., was descended from one of these families; as was also Thompson (Tomp) Myers, who for many years around 1900 lived in the southern part of Grant Township, Jackson County, Kans.

WILLIAM MYERS

William Myers, one of the four immigrant brothers, was an early settler of Mason County, Kentucky. When he arrived is not known; he and his family were there in the early 1790's. It is probable that he had several children. There are numerous Myers marriages recorded between 1795 and 1805. At any rate, one daughter, Catherine (Caty) married Thomas Allen on November 13, 1796; and he had a son Henry, whose wife's name was Mary.

HENRY and MARY MYERS

Corroborative evidence indicates that Henry and Mary Myers were married about 1790; her maiden name is not known. Their children were born in

Mason County, Kentucky during the 15 years following that date. No Mason County record of the marriage has been found, which indicates that they were probably married before settling there.

On October 14, 1823 (Deed Book 34, page 369) Henry Myers bought from the Estate of Robert Johnson "land in Mason County on waters of North Fork of Licking River 95 acres". Two entries appear on October 26, 1926 (Deed Book 34); one (page 372) shows that "Henry Myers and Mary his wife transfer to John Myers part of land said Henry Myers purchased from heirs of Robert Johnson 40 acres"; the other (page 374) is a similar entry "to George Myers 20 acres". In each instance the consideration mentioned is "for natural love and affection which said Henry and Mary Myers bear toward said" John and George Myers, their sons.

Both Henry and Mary Myers died about 1827. They had seven children: Mary (called Polly), John, George, Nancy, Sarah (called Sally), Susanna, and Hannah.

<p>THE CHILDREN OF HENRY and MARY MYERS</p>

The seven children of Henry and Mary Myers were all born in Mason County, Ky., but several of them moved to other parts of the country.

MARY, usually called Polly, married John Low on July 29, 1811. They first settled in Greene County, Ohio, near Xenia, where Hiram Bennett built a house for them in 1823. Later they moved to Vermillion County, near Newport, Indiana. Low

was a farmer and a carpenter.

JOHN married Sallie Drake on October 30, 1813. They remained in Mason County. On January 12, 1828 (Deed Book 34, page 367) it is recorded that "John Myers of Mason County sold to George Myers of same place land in Mason County on waters of Stone Lick 40 acres being a part of the land purchased by Henry Myers from heirs of Robert Johnson, and deeded by said Henry Myers to said John Myers on October 26, 1826. Also the said John Myers' interest in the land of his father and mother, being the balance of the purchase by said Henry Myers from the heirs of Robert Johnson, after deducting John and George Myers' share from it, which has been heretofore deeded to them by said Henry Myers containing about 35 acres as is supposed, which interest of the said John Myers is one undivided seventh part of the said supposed 35 acres adjoining the land of John and George Myers". This indicates that both of the parents (Henry and Mary Myers) died previous to January 12, 1828, and that they left seven children.

GEORGE married Elizabeth Sawyer on February 13, 1816. He bought from his brothers and sisters their shares of the land inherited from their parents, and he remained in Mason County, Ky.

NANCY married John Page on March 27, 1822. For some years they lived in Greene County, Ohio; then in Vermillion County, Indiana; and still later in Coles County, Illinois. Their son Robert Page, was included in a "family party" that emigrated by covered wagon from LeClaire, Iowa to Leavenworth, Kansas in the early spring of 1855. Several of his descendants were early settlers around St. Clere and Holton, Kansas.

SARAH, usually called Sally, for many years lived in Vermillion County, Indiana. She was still unmarried when she sold her share of the inherited land mentioned above to her brother George, but she subsequently married Jack Crane, and they settled in Leavenworth County, Kansas in the early 1850's. When the "family party" came from Iowa early in 1855, its destination was the Crane home near Leavenworth, and the Cruzans, mentioned below, continued to live with the Cranes until they moved to Jackson County, Kansas in 1857. Among Sally Crane's many descendants are Alfred E. Crane, who was a prominent attorney in Holton and Topeka, Kans., and his son A. Harry Crane, also an attorney in Topeka and prominent in Kansas politics.

SUSANNA married Frederick William Cody. They lived for a time in Vermillion County, Indiana, then moved to LeClaire, Scott County, Iowa. Early in 1855 they emigrated, with a "family party", to Leavenworth County, Kansas. The Codys ran a boarding house near Leavenworth, where their nephews George Bennett and John Page lived. Susanna's husband, Fred Cody, was very outspoken in his abolitionist views, to which a pro-slavery freighter from Missouri took violent exception. In the ensuing fight, Cody was seriously cut up with a butcher knife and subsequently died from the wounds. They had a son, William Frederick Cody, mentioned below. Following the death of her husband, Susanna continued to live at Leavenworth, except for a short period during the late 1860's when she made a home for her son in Holton, Kans.

William Frederick Cody, a boy in his teens when the family came to Kansas, lived at the Cody boarding house, along with his first cousins, Bob Page and George W. Bennett. He later became uni-

1840, nearly half a century ago, for many years
 lived in Hamilton County, Indiana. His was
 still associated with the old law firm of the
 firm of John W. Hamilton and his partner
 George, but the partnership was dissolved in 1840,
 and they settled in Hamilton County, Indiana,
 in the early 1840s. When the "family party"
 came from New York in 1845, the Hamilton
 was the first to leave for Hamilton, and the
 firm, Hamilton, Hamilton, Hamilton, Hamilton, Hamilton,
 the firm still being owned by Hamilton County,
 Indiana in 1845. About half a century ago the
 Hamiltons were killed by a train, and a family
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 the son of Henry Hamilton, also an attorney in the
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versally famous as "Buffalo Bill". On the death of his father, Bill, age 14, became a freight driver on the old Santa Fe Trail; later, an Express rider for the Pony Express. At various times his "run" was between Independence and Westport, Mo., to Leavenworth; later, from Ozawkie, Kansas, via Holton, to Blue Rapids; then from St. Joseph, Mo., to Ft. Kearney, Nebr. Still later, he was employed by the Army at Dodge City, Kans., as an Indian scout. Then he contracted to supply buffalo meat for the Army and for railroad construction crews. On account of his exploits in this venture, he became the hero of Ned Buntline's famous "Wild West" tales, and thus acquired the title "Buffalo Bill". Exploiting the notoriety thus gained, he organized and for many years operated "Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show" with great success. He established his home and headquarters in North Platte, Nebr. His grave is on Lookout Mountain, overlooking the city of Denver, Colo., where his imposing monument is one of the show places of that area.

HANNAH was born in Mason County, Kentucky, in 1804, and there she married Hiram Bennett on October 3, 1823. They established their home near Xenia, Greene County, Ohio. He was a farmer and a carpenter. In 1830, with their three children, they moved to a farm near Newport, Vermillion County, Indiana, where she died in 1838. Following her death, he married Sarah Powell, and settled in Coles County, Illinois, in the vicinity of Charleston, where he died in 1877.

A Mason County, Kentucky Land Record, dated October 25, 1830 (Deed Book 35, page 220) states: "John Low and Polly his wife; John Page and Nancy his wife; Hiram Bennett and Hannah his wife; and Sally Myers; heirs of Henry Myers, deceased, and all of Vermillion County, Indiana, sell to George

Myers of Mason County, Kentucky a tract of land in Mason County on waters of Stone Lick Creek, containing 20 acres, it being their undivided interest in 35 acres which their deceased father, Henry Myers, purchased from the heirs of Robert Johnson, deceased."

Hannah's children were John, Mary Elizabeth, and George Washington.

John Bennett lived, raised a family, and died, on a farm in Coles County, Illinois. His wife was Rhoda Frye.

Mary Elizabeth Bennett married William Cruzan, and for a time they lived at Camargo, Ill., where a son Hiram (who died young), and a daughter were born; the daughter Sarah Jane (called Sis) married Philip Claypool, a prominent Jackson County, Kansas farmer and banker. Mary had two more children, born in Kansas, Buck and Kansas Cruzan; Kansas married Boney Meeks of Soldier Valley, in Jackson County, Kans.

George Washington Bennett was born near Xenia, Ohio, October 12, 1829, and died in Jackson County, Kansas February 27, 1920. While living in Coles County, Ill., in the fall of 1854, he joined the Cruzans in their move to Kansas Territory. (Mrs. Cruzan was his sister.) They went by covered wagon to Scott County, Iowa, and in the spring of 1855 proceeded to the Jack Crane home near Leavenworth, Kansas, again by covered wagon. The "family party" leaving LeClair, Iowa, comprised nine people: Fred Cody, his wife Susanna (Myers), and their son William F. Cody; William Cruzan, his wife, and two children; Robert Page; and George Washington Bennett. (Mrs. Cody and Mrs. Jack Crane were sisters; they were aunts of Mrs. Cruzan, Bob Page, and George Bennett.)

Later in 1855 George Bennett became the first permanent white settler in what is now Jackson County, Kans. He entered Government land

in Calhoun (now Jackson) County when the so called Delaware Strip was opened for settlement; his land being located where Soldier Creek entered the north boundary of the Diminished Pottawatomie Reservation. He lived there 62 years, until his death.

On August 30, 1857 he married Elizabeth Pauline (Polly) Nichols, at Leavenworth, Kansas, and they immediately set out, up the Oregon Trail and across the trackless prairie, for the rude, one-room, dirt-floored log cabin he had built on the bank of Soldier Creek, taking all of their possessions in a cart drawn by one ox. They reared a family of eleven children, all but one of them to adulthood; some of them lived past 90 years, two are still living.

One of his daughters, Mary Bennett, married G. W. Shields in 1883. They lived on the 560-acre Shields farm in Adrian Township, Jackson County, Kansas until 1904, when they moved to Holton, Kans., where they spent the remaining years of their lives. They had five children; one son died in infancy, the others, still living, are:

John A. Shields, retired, Seymour, Ind.

Jesse W. Shields, until his retirement Vice President of the United States Rubber Company, now residing in a suburb of Detroit, Mich.

Elsie E. Tanner, living on a large farm near St. John, Kansas.

Earl R. Shields, an executive in the steel and concrete construction industry at Oklahoma City, Okla.

Within 100 years after their marriage in 1857, the descendants of George and Polly Bennett numbered more than 200, most of them still living and widely scattered around the world.

In 1868 (see Jackson) County when the railroad
 between the two was opened for settlement, the first
 being located where Jackson Street crosses the
 north boundary of the United States land
 reservation. The land there is now, with the
 school.

On August 25, 1867 an arrival of settlers from
 the (North) Dakota, at Lawrenceville, Kansas, and
 they immediately set out, up the Indian trail and
 across the Kansas prairie, for the north, over-
 took, first located in order to find water on the
 bank of Soldier Creek, taking all of their new
 sections in a sort of line to the north. They found
 a family of slaves children, all but one of them
 in addition, some of them lived past 10 years,
 two are still living.

One of his daughters, Mary Burnett, married
 G. W. Smith in 1881. They lived on the 300-
 acre section from the Indian Territory, Jackson
 County, Kansas until 1900, when they moved to
 Hinton, Iowa, where they spent the remaining
 years of their lives. They had five children:
 one son died in infancy, the others, still liv-
 ing, are:

John A. Smith, retired, farmer, Ind.

James W. Smith, until his retirement Vice
 President of the United States Rubber Company,
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 Elsie A. Smith, living on a large farm
 near St. John, Kansas.

Earl A. Smith, an executive in the steel
 and machine construction industry of Chicago
 Ill., U.S.A.

Within 100 years after their arrival in
 1867, the descendants of George and Polly Bur-
 nett numbered over 250, most of them still
 living and actively engaged in the world.



MAR 81



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962

